

Juvenile Delinquency-1935

GREENSBORO, N. C.
NEWS

JUL 29 1935

NO DICE.

The Asheboro Courier, concerned and properly for large number of youngsters, especially negro lads, who are being arrested by the police of that community, indorses a suggestion which has been made for some sort of factory to be operated by colored people. From the Courier's argument in behalf of the proposition is quoted:

Just what sort of employment would be the best thing is a matter for consideration, but they should have something. Asheboro has always had a very good class of colored citizens—many of the older ones are passing fast. These good citizens are good citizens because they worked when they were small and attended to their own business, trying to train their children to do likewise. But, if the young fry—both white and colored—are allowed to run amuck, what may we expect later on?

Enthusiastically agreeing with the Courier in its premises, the Daily News wishes that it could follow through to the implied conclusion; but there's a hitch. These rowdy small-fry cannot be taught to work in a factory. The child labor law applies—or does it?—to black as well as white. We fear the result of permitting children of any race to reach the age of 16 years without having done a day's work; but that is the experiment to which this state has been committed, and there is some reason to believe the limit will be raised to 18 before the movement against child labor expends itself.

Understand, we are not kicking, but just a-pointing out what's what.

General

Juvenile Delinquency-1935

Georgia

Augusta, Ga. Herald

June 24, 1935

Juvenile Court Officer to Be Buried Wednesday

Willie Mae McNatt Oliver, prominent negro welfare worker of Augusta, died Sunday night at University Hospital, where she had been ill for about a week. She was probation officer of the colored branch of the juvenile court and was a most valuable member of the community. Judge H. A. Woodward relied on her judgment at all times and many a man, now doing good work in the church and community has Willie Mae Oliver and her wholesome influence and counsel at difficult times to thank for his ultimate success.

During the World War she was a welfare worker with the Home Service Department of the Red Cross. Born in Augusta she had lived here all of her life except for the time she spent in New York where she took her training as a social worker.

Her judgment, her broad-minded charity and her cool-headedness at moments of excitement made her invaluable to the court. She was a woman of indomitable energy and, though her health during the last few years has been poor, she has never let it interfere with her usefulness. It might well be said that she laid down her life for her work and for her race, since she kept at tack until stricken. She was the inspiration and moving power of the camp for little negroes that was conducted last summer in Augusta.

She instituted and conducted playgrounds for negro children in parts of the city where the juvenile crime was heavy and by those playgrounds succeeded in reducing the juvenile delinquency to a great extent.

She was a friend and helper of the late Lucy Laney and one of the trustees of Haines Institute. She was supervisor and one of the board of directors of Shiloh Orphanage and was largely responsible for many improvements brought about in that institution of late years. She was a member of Tabernacle Church, a teacher in the Sunday School and delegate to the National Baptist Congress.

She had served as president of the juvenile committee of the National B. Y. P. U. Congress and was the leader of the largest B. Y. P. U. in the city at Tabernacle Baptist Church, which has a membership of approximately 300 colored children.

The deceased is survived by her mother, Matilda McNatt; one sister, Ruby McNatt, and three brothers, J. C. McNatt, L. W. McNatt, of Augusta, and John McNatt, of New York.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the Tabernacle Baptist Church.

Juvenile Delinquency - 1935

New York

Lack Of Suitable Institutions And Care For Delinquent Negro Children Deplored In Report

NEW YORK JOURNAL

Bronx Section

APR 24 1935

RACE WELFARE

FOUND LAX

Negro children, especially boys between the ages of 10 and 15, are very much in need of adequate provision for their guidance and betterment. This is the conclusion of the Subcommittee on the Negro Child Problem, an extension of the Committee on Domestic Relations Court of the New York County Lawyers' Association, as embodied in a report recently released covering their activities from June 1934 to date. The thorough investigations of all phases of the problem have been carried on by the committee, which includes Dorothy Strauss, chairman; Louis C. Hagger, secretary; and Edward H. Rayner, with the aim of devising solutions and, it has been announced, further meetings and conferences will be held.

Previous conference held by the committee have revealed that one of the major considerations in the entire situation is the lack of suitable institutions for the Negro child. In institutions which harbor "neglected" children are either overcrowded or restricted to white with the result that welfare workers dealing with colored children find their field extremely limited. The practice of placing some of the delinquent or neglected children in private homes was decried by the sub committee in its report which declared that certain spots in Jamaica, Long Island, had come to be known as "sink holes" of vice largely because children had been committed to homes there which were unable to exercise the proper restraint. Attempts are being sponsored, said the report, to alter the entrance restrictions of several of the larger children's institutions to admit members of this group but even if they are successful, they will not adequately care for the large numbers. The great majority of the children were Protestants, it was said, because Negro children of the Jewish or Catholic faith, were generally cared for by protectory homes operated by the church. When it was suggested that the other children could be cared for similarly by sectarian institutions, it was found that funds for such a purpose were unavailable.

A scheme along the lines of prevention was suggested by Mr. Rayner at a recent meeting. The plan consisted of the formation of drill classes for boys between the ages of 10 and 15, based upon a modified form of the system used for fifty years, a notable example of it being the Knickerbocker Greys, an organization which drills in the Seventh Regiment Armory. This plan, it was stated, coupled with adequate playgrounds, would provide for the Negro child between what is now the neglected age, i. e.: between 10 and 15 years. Numerous conferences have also been held with judges of the Domestic Relations Court, probation officers and court clerks, as a result of which it has been discovered that there are only three Negro probation officers, a man and a woman in Manhattan and a man in Brooklyn. The existence of a Negro Big Sister in the Bronx Court was reported but no other Big Brother or Big Sister could be found in any of the other courts.

The Protestant Big Brother Movement was found to handle no Negro boys and, although one Negro worker was found in the Protestant Big Sister Movement, none were found in court. The Brooklyn Urban League was found to have a representative daily in the Children's Court, and a move for the placing of a Negro Big Brother in the Bronx Court was begun by James H. Hubert, executive of the New York Urban League, after the cooperation of the sub committee was promised him. Efforts are also being made to secure funds from the state for the furthering of the work, declared the sub committee in its report, and they repeated their determination to continue in their attempts to stimulate interest and activity in this work which they described as one of the most important, not only to lawyers, but to all citizens.

Greater New York with an official population of approximately 100,000 Negroes under 15 years of age, is without a single welfare or social organization to take care of Protestant Negro juvenile delinquents. This was one of the points in a report on conditions among Negro children, submitted by the subcommittee on the Negro Child Problem of the Committee on the Domestic Relations Court of the New York County Lawyers' Association. Among other suggestions, the subcommittee recommended a broadening and developing of the Knickerbocker Greys, a recreational and fraternal group, which hold drills in the Seventh Regiment Armory. In considering corrective treatment, the report continues, the court would assign boys from 10 to 15 years of age to organizations of a similar nature. "As fast as financial support is furnished," the subcommittee explained, "the plan can be expanded to provide for greater numbers of boys. Eventually it can be made city-wide. Assuming that the armories will be available."

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BUTCHER BOY ADMITS GIRL'S THRILL SLAYING

District Attorney Announces Confession to Brutal Crime on Helen Glenn.

GREENVILLE, N. Y., June 29.—(AP)—District Attorney John C. Welch, of Greene county, tonight said Alfred Volckmann, Greenville butcher boy, had made a "full and detailed" confession of the "thrill" slaying of nine-year-old Helen Glenn.

Welch said Volckmann, 19-year-old former military school student, confessed he attacked the little girl and then carried her to the swamp where her body was found Friday afternoon and threw her in a small stream.

Then, Welch said, Volckmann confessed he stabbed her through the breast with a butcher knife he had taken from his father's store.

"He has made a full and detailed confession," Welch said.

Welch made the announcement from his Catskill office and immediately started to the scene of the crime with Volckmann and members of the state's Scotland Yard to "re-enact the slaying."

The confession followed nearly two days of mysterious activities started by Scotland Yard investigators a few hours after the little girl's mutilated body was found in the swamp by two volunteer searchers.

Volckmann was the last person to see the girl alive, informing police he met her on the street a short time before she disappeared. Today a farmer living near the swamp said he had seen him on the road near the spot where the body was found.

The youth, Welch reported, said he had attempted to commit suicide twice yesterday by drinking poison but officials doubted this.

Funeral services for nine-year-old Helen, victim of assault and murder, will be held Monday in the church of which her father, the Rev. Ernest Glenn, is pastor.

The child will be buried in the new white dress which had been made for her school graduation exercises, and nearly every resident of this Catskill community was expected to be present.

Juvenile Delinquency - 1935

Incorrigible Negro Juveniles Create Serious Problem Here

Officials Suggest Place Of Detention For

Boys Be Found

Asheville, N.C.

One of the more serious problems confronting Asheville officials—and its citizens in general—is what to do with the city's negro juveniles who have reached the incorrigible stage.

The problem has been present in all its ugliness for many months—in fact for years—and apparently no one has been able to do anything about it.

Walking the streets free to commit their depredations as they wish are a group of 30 to 40 negro boys. Some of them have been arrested 15 or 20 times. Most of them have been taken into custody as many as five times.

They break into homes and stores, throw bricks through the plate glass windows of places of business, grab what they want and flee, twist the door handles off automobiles and if unsuccessful in gaining entrance that way smash a glass or cut a hole in the top, and generally are responsible for a considerable amount of petty thievery.

Asheville officers in practically every case are able to trace the perpetrators of these annoying crimes and place them under arrest. Their duty stops there. In fact they are able to do nothing more.

A state law requires that all persons under 16 years of age arrested must be turned over to the juvenile court. Then why doesn't the juvenile court put a stop to these forays?

In the case of white children the court can and does. In the case of negroes it cannot. There are training schools in the county and over the state to which the white children may be sent, but there is only one place in the state—Morrison Training school in Guilford county—where negro boys can be put under restraint.

"This school is so crowded," Judge J. Frazier Glenn, of juvenile court, said yesterday "that if we get over five to seven colored boys in that institution per year we feel quite fortunate." They cannot be kept in jail for any length of time.

And what is the result? "I believe it well enough that the public may know," Judge Glenn asserted, "that we have about three times as many negro boys and girls (under supervision of the court) as

ticut, Pennsylvania, Texas, California, Ohio, Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin.

Taft predicted social security and relief will be the "most important question of the next campaign." Senator Capper, forecasting a Republican triumph, termed Landon "the strongest man" the party could present.

Authorities Handicapped He was quick to say that his remarks should not be construed as any possible criticism of juvenile authorities.

"Personalities and not issues have unfortunately dominated our political campaigns to too large an extent, and frequently it seemed as if both political parties were in the doldrums with little difference in the issues between them," Landon said. "This probably contributed to overemphasis of personalities."

"But this time we are confronted with a dramatic issue. It is the one which has so often flamed up in our national history—paternalism, but reaucracy and centralization of government functions into our national life."

"I do not believe in institutionalizing boys and girls so long as it is possible for us to correct them in their homes," Judge Glenn declared, "but as soon as we find that we have failed with their parents and the children they should be placed in an institution."

"We are very well equipped with institutions for white boys. The Buncombe County Training school for boys is a school with the all-time teacher furnished by the state and has equal standing with the schools of the county up through the grammar grades."

Sent To High Schools "These boys are then sent to one of the high schools of the county. Such boys as we cannot satisfactorily correct we transfer to Stonewall Jackson Training school (near Concord)."

"By the above process you will see we are enabled to reduce incorrigibility among the white boys to practically a minimum. As to the colored boys it is a different story. We have only one institution in the state—the Morrison Training school—to take care of the colored boys."

"This school is so crowded that if we get over five to seven colored boys in it per year we feel quite fortunate. If we had a colored training school for Buncombe county such as we have for white boys we would be able to remove the incorrigible colored boy to this institution and it would only be a short time until the majority of the larceny, housebreaking, storebreaking, etc., could be reduced to its minimum."

It was suggested to Judge Glenn that since apparently the only thing needed to reduce delinquency among the negro youths to a minimum was some place to house them when they become incorrigible, possibly the city and county could find a place of detention.

Old Pest House Suggested The old pest house owned by the city—built along the banks of the French Broad river at considerable cost, but never used—was suggested as a possible solution.

Judge Glenn readily agreed that it might be put to such use, and that the boys during the milder weather could be transported to some farm land owned by the city or county and worked to help pay for their keep.

Capt. Fred Jones, of the Asheville police department, said a place of detention for the negro youths complained of would pay for itself in the loss saved the merchants and people generally.

"They are stealing everything they can get their hands on," Capt. Jones declared. "They are breaking doors on automobiles, breaking glasses

Enterprise
January 16, 1935

Enterprise
February 27, 1935

Durham, N. C. Sun
June 24, 1935

Monroe, N. C. Journal
August 16, 1935

Correction Home For Delinquents Proposed

American Business Club Committee Proposes Establishing Such A Place For Delinquent Negro Children To City Council

Possibility that a detention home or correction home for delinquent Negro children may be established at the city farm arose this morning at a meeting of the city council when the proposal for the establishment of such an institution was made by a committee from the American Business club.

The club committee pointed out that in its opinion such a place would be a feasible remedy for the present undesirable condition which prevails through the inability of the state institutions to care for delinquent Negro children. A large number of these young Negroes who are eligible for commitment to the state institutions have been freed and are a continued source of trouble to officers and concern to the juvenile authorities.

Members of the American Business club committee told the city council that they had made an extensive study of the situation, since it is in line with the club's civic projects, and offered a definite proposal to the city.

Under the plan the city farm, abandoned some time ago as a prison farm, could be turned into a correction home for the delinquent Negro youths and operated for approximately \$2,000 for the first year. The institution would be operated under a competent Negro supervisor and matron, the farm would be worked and the Negroes be given the benefit of class instruction. The committee of the club offered its services in an advisory capacity wherever possible.

H. A. Millis and Dr. T. Wingate Andrews, members of the Juvenile and Parks Commission, were present and heartily endorsed the idea, as did T. W. Sprinkle, judge of the juvenile court, and City Attorney Grover H. Jones, former juvenile judge.

That the plan proposed by the American Business club met with a general approval was indicated in comment by several

members of the city council. The success of the plan has been proven by a similar institution in Winston-Salem which is relieving greatly the delinquency problem there.

The inadequate provision in state institutions for the care of the delinquent Negro children makes the problem particularly acute at this time, it was stated. At the present time the city juvenile commission has approximately a dozen youths who should be committed to some correctional institution, but is unable to get them in because of the crowded conditions in those institutions.

The matter was referred by the council to the law committee, and it was indicated that some action would be taken in the direction pointed out by the American Business club group within the near future.

A hearing upon a petition that the section of English street between Lindsay and Chestnut streets be transferred from a residential to a business zone will be held before the council at its next meeting on the first Wednesday in February.

A city ordinance, providing for city license tags on automobiles, was passed by the council this morning. The ordinance, usually passed on the first of each year, had been overlooked thus far, although thousands here had bought their tags as usual, and many were cited to court.

The Paramount theater, in the municipal building, was leased to the North Carolina Theaters for five years, beginning January 1, 1935, with option for another five-year lease at the expiration of that time being granted.

NAME O. E. DAVIS NEGRO JUVENILE WORKER IN CITY

Park and Juvenile Commissioner Pleased Over Action of Council In Employing Fulltime Worker

O. E. Davis, who for some time has been supervisor of colored playgrounds in the city, has been appointed full-time colored boys' commissioner—a position created by the unanimous vote of city council yesterday—it was announced today.

Well-acquainted with juvenile work among colored boys, he is expected to start his job in the immediate future and will continue with the job of commissioner that of colored playground supervisor.

In addition to voting to employ a full-time colored boys' commissioner yesterday, the city council also voted to establish a detention room in which to care for boys pending provision of institutional correction by the state.

Boys' workers have long contended that maladjusted youths should be kept as far away as possible from hardened adult criminals, and establishment of the detention room here is expected to fill a long-felt need.

W. F. Bailey, Park and Juvenile commissioner, is particularly pleased over the action of the city council.

While before the board, the delegation urged a more adequate "prevention" program to combat the juvenile crime situation. The board also was asked to petition the state highway commission to pave the Fayetteville road, Spaulding, banker, appeared before the board of county commissioners today and urged that the board rescind its action of last week which withdrew the support of the county juvenile court set-up. Declaring that they were "deeply concerned" because we are the most "amplified" supported by both city and county.

Asserting that a "crime wave" involving Negro juvenile delinquents is now sweeping over the colored sections of the city, the delegation told the board that these same juveniles are "destined to create a tremendous problem in the future."

Adamant in its stand that the city should provide for its own juvenile cases, and supported by the law, commissioners assured the delegation that the court by no means would be abolished.

After hearing the law on the point which places the responsibility of maintaining a court on the city, members of the delegation said they would make another appearance before the city council.

NEGROES SEEK RETENTION OF COURT SET-UP

Commissioners Hear Delegation Plead for City-County Juvenile Court

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Juvenile Crime, Colored

RAGGED colored boys who roam the streets of the town, either looking for trouble or making no great effort to avoid it, present a sorry spectacle. They prey upon trash boxes (smoke cigarette stubs and otherwise disport themselves so as to become public nuisances as well as public problems.

Their conduct is the result of conditions and circumstances for which no one individual is to blame. Perhaps it is the fault of the whole society.

But no matter, they are ever with us and most unsightly, but from the physical and the sociological point of view. The question is, what would we have them do as an alternative to running in the ruts of petty crime or objectionable mischief?

Discipline of these urchins is something else. Clerk of Court Griffin, who is also judge of the juvenile court, has found that these little ruffians are as smart as whips, doubtless because they have been shifting for themselves almost since infancy.

A couple of them were brought before the Clerk recently for some petty crime. Old heads at the game, they believed they could get away with anything because there was no place to lock them up, the regular jails being declared no place to incarcerate erring children.

Clerk Griffin decided that extreme measures were necessary here so he called up the juvenile detention quarters in Charlotte and secured permission to keep the boys there until he could get an order to put them in the training school. A few days later the admission was granted and the boys were taken away. A short time later word came from Morrison training school that one of the youths had escaped. Police were sent to the boy's home and he was taken into custody half an hour after his return.

Two other boys were brought before the court a while later for a particularly brazen theft. They took the tools from a car parked in town, went up the street and attempted to sell them

his property. No one could fail to pity such unfortunates and to hope that the next clean up campaign will include them on the program.

Review
Reidsville
NOV 11 1935

Three negro boys, one 13 and the other two 10, were arrested in Reidsville for breaking and entering. One of the bold bad juveniles had a big pistol in his possession. The city recorder in Reidsville thought a good whipping the best remedy for their offense and two of the boys have already experienced the stings of a good hiding. The Reidsville judge was probably right. The sending of the boys to jail would have done little good, perhaps. A good whipping may teach them that they are still spanking size and not the desperadoes they imagined themselves.

JACKSON, TENN.

SUN

JAN 13 1935

Tennessee Would

Save Much Expense

With the Madison county court having gone on record as favorable to the removal of the colored industrial school of the state from the mountain fastnesses of East Tennessee to the fertile plateau of West Tennessee and with other forces in this section, including the colored leadership of Madison county, working for the change, there is prospect that the question will receive legislative attention.

The Herbert Domain, as the school now is known, was established in 1905 near Pikeville in a section of the state where there is a small colored population. The placing of the school in that section was a political move, stripped of all practicality. In its present location, it is quite expensive to the state and it does not meet the needs in the least. There is comparatively little cultivable land in that particular locality and farm work is necessarily reduced to a minimum.

The school has an enrollment of between 400 and 500. At present the number is 460. The young negroes who have been found guilty of crimes and misdemeanors and are not old enough to come under the provisions of jail and penitentiary sentences are sent to this industrial school for a period of years.

Fully 80 per cent of them come from the counties of West Tennessee which have large colored populations. To move one of these young negroes from a West Tennessee county to Pikeville in East Tennessee costs about \$75 to \$85. Moving 300 of them costs the state \$22,500.

If the industrial school were located in Madison county, which is the geographical center of West Tennessee and is easily accessible from all points, the cost of moving a young negro from any of the counties in

this section to Madison would not be over \$10 or \$15, this representing a saving to the state per capita of from \$65 to \$75, or a saving in the aggregate of some \$19,500.

But this is not the greatest saving. The greatest would come in providing fertile farm lands where the youths would be given permanent employment and where much that they consume could be produced by them.

Thus, from a financial standpoint the moving of the school from its present location to Madison county would be an attractive proposition for the state and would receive the sanction of every taxpayer in it.

From a humanitarian standpoint, there could be no argument against it. Eighty per cent of the inmates would be kept in their natural habitat where they could be visited by their folks occasionally and where they would have some incentive to profit by the course of correction.

Some supplies, of course, would necessarily have to be purchased and here is where the school would be attractive to a city the size of Jackson. These supplies could be furnished by our merchants with the profit reaching appreciable proportions over a period of years.

We believe that our Madison county legislators should get behind this movement and if the measure is passed the Madison county court should immediately offer a site for the school.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
July 22, 1935

Court Needs Negro Officer

Lively Asks Colored Worker
for Juvenile Body.

Although concurring with Probation Officer John J. Lively, Jr., can gain but little efficiency that the Juvenile Court sorely needs a Negro probation officer, Judge L. D. Miller said Monday morning he would make no more a legislative authorization is necessary, said he would prefer not

Chattanooga, Tenn.

NEWS

JUN 15 1935

Well, Give Them a Thrill

MEMPHIS' model boy, Norman Maynard, has turned out to be a "thrill" gangster. Having been a star high school athlete, member of various scholastic and civic organizations, the boy leader of his city, it might be imagined that this youth had thrills aplenty.

But Memphis was startled a few days ago by a story that Maynard and other youths had staged more than thirty holdups—for the thrill of it.

The Negro who steals a chicken for his Sunday dinner, the poor father who takes food to feed his hungry family, or the hardened crook who wants an easy living—these the officers can cope with. But law-enforcement agencies don't know how to deal with this new type of criminal.

We suggest a remedy for the thrill criminals. Buy a fleet of airplanes and turn these thrill-mad fellows loose to fight each other in the air until one drops to earth.

Or go back to the old Roman arena, and let them pit their wits and strength against wildcats or hungry wolves. This way they will only exterminate themselves, without inflicting any particular injury upon society.

this time.

"The office needs a colored officer worse than anything else," said Lively. "Police officers have success in straightening out Negro affairs, but a white probation officer can't make any headway with Negroes. The confidential information necessary for solution of a child's case can only be obtained by someone of the same race."

Lively said Monday the Juvenile Court now has approximately forty Negro cases on the files. Aside from the additional load, the juvenile court probationary functions need a Negro probation officer, officer."

to saddle the county with more appropriation demands at this time. It is doubtful, he said, whether such an act could be introduced in the Legislature at this juncture of the special session.

Juvenile Delinquency - 1935

Virginia.
6

Roanoke, Va., World News
May 21, 1935

Marked Decline In Delinquency Of Negroes Noted

Statistics compiled by T. W. Bibb, research worker of the city department of recreation, reveal that delinquency among colored children in Roanoke has declined from 35 per cent in 1928, the year before recreation work for colored children was begun here, to 11 per cent during 1934.

The comparative figures were based on the summer months of June, July and August, the period during which 31 per cent of the delinquency among colored children occurred from 1921 to 1928, inclusive. In 1934, despite the fact that the total delinquency for the year was the greatest for the past six years, the proportion occurring during these three vacation months was smallest.

Fifteen-year-old find it most difficult to behave themselves, Mr. Bibb's study reveals, but at 18 the number of delinquents has been materially reduced and from 14 downward there is a steady decrease.

The most frequent offense by colored juveniles is the same as that among white children—petit larceny. Disorderly conduct is the second most frequent charge with incorrigibility standing third. Among colored girls incorrigibility and disorderly conduct rank first in the order of charges.

Delinquency figures among colored children since 1928 as summarized by Mr. Bibb, follow: 35 per cent in 1928, 26 per cent in 1929, 20 per cent in 1930, 16 per cent in 1931, 12 per cent in 1932, 13 per cent in 1933, and 11 per cent in 1934.

NORFOLK, VA.
LEDGER DISPATCH

mainder were between 15 and 18 years of age.

If these percentages tend to show "some progress" toward solving what Judge Cochran, of the Norfolk Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court terms "a vicious problem," they show that not enough progress has been made and that the process of curing this evil must be speeded up. The commitment of juveniles in most cases is for the purpose of detaining them pending their transfer to corrective institutions or pending disposition of their cases arising out of juvenile delinquency. Mr. James finds that a great majority of those children turned over to his department for detention in corrective institutions have been held in jail pending the transfer.

This condition should not be tolerated by the people of Virginia. In the City of Norfolk it is only in the rarest cases that juveniles are detained in jail. A Negro detention home, privately operated, handles Negro cases where detention is necessary. In most cases where Judge Cochran finds detention of white children urgent they are kept in boarding homes. Now

and then a vicious case requires more drastic action. On rare occasions it is necessary to send some boy to the prison farm for detention pending disposition of his case. Commitment of children to jail in the counties is principally responsible for Virginia's unpleasant record as disclosed in the recent report. The jail is about the only place in the average county where anyone—juvenile delinquent, felon, insane person, or vagrant—can be detained. "A few days in jail," Judge Cochran points out, "may bring to a child harm that will require six months, or a year, or more, to cure." And it may bring harm that can never be cured at all.

NOV 14 1935

Sending Children to Jail

In commenting on the report which shows that 2,541 children were committed to jails in Virginia during the last fiscal year, State Welfare Commissioner James points out that an analysis of the records reveals that "some progress" is being made toward keeping children out of prison. For while 402 more children were committed to jail last year than the year before, the percentage of children in the jail commitments dropped from 5.6 to 3.5. Of those committed 3 per cent were less than twelve years of age, 28 per cent were between twelve and fifteen years old, and the re